

**A-Level Overview Year 1: Government and Politics**

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| Term | Teacher: Miss Mather | Key Skills / PSAs / Deadlines |
| 1 | **UK (Paper 1)** **Democracy and participation – 20 hours*** Current systems of representative democracy and direct democracy
* Wider franchise and debates over suffrage
* Pressure groups and other influences
* Rights

**Electoral systems – 15 hours** * Different electoral systems
* Referendums sand how they are used
* Electoral systems analysis
 | Read relevant textbook pagesKeep notes up to dateRegular essay practiseWeekly homework deadlines |
| 2 | **UK (Paper 1)****UK Political Parties – 20 hours*** Conservative Party
* Labour Party
* Liberal Democrats
* Emerging and minor UK Political parties
* Current/recent policies

**Voting behaviour and the media – 15 hours*** Class voting and other social factors influencing voting patterns
* Case studies of three key general elections
* Influence of the media
 | Read relevant textbook pagesKeep notes up to dateRegular essay practiseWeekly homework deadlinesPaper One mock (partial) |
| 3 | **UK (Paper 2)****The UK Constitution - 15 hours*** Nature and sources of the UK constitution
* Reforms since 1997
* Role and powers of devolved bodies and impact of devolution
* Debates on further reforms

**Prime Minister and Cabinet – 20 hours*** Structure, role and powers of the Executive
* Ministerial responsibility
* Relationship between Prime Minister and Cabinet
 | Read relevant textbook pagesKeep notes up to dateRegular essay practiseWeekly homework deadlines |
| 4 | **UK (Paper 2)Parliament – 15 hours*** Structure of Commons and Lords
* Comparative powers of Commons and Lords
* Legislative process
* Relationship between Parliament and Executive

**Relations between institutions – 20 hours*** Supreme Court and interactions with legislative process
* Aims, role and impact of the EU
* Location of sovereignty in the UK system
 | Read relevant textbook pagesKeep notes up to dateRegular essay practiseWeekly homework deadlinesPaper Two mock (partial) |
| 5 | **Political Ideas (Papers 1 & 2)****Liberalism – 15 hours*** Core ideas and principles – how they relate to human nature, the state, society and economy
* Tensions between classical and modern liberalism
* Ideas of key thinkers – Locke, Wollstonecraft, Mill, Rawls, Friedan

**Conservatism – 15 hours*** Core ideas and principles – how they relate to human nature, the state, society and economy
* Tensions between traditional, One Nation and New Right ideas
* Ideas of key thinkers – Hobbes, Burke, Rand, Oakeshott, Nozick
 | Read relevant textbook pagesKeep notes up to dateRegular essay practiseWeekly homework deadlines |
| 6 | **Political Ideas (Papers 1 & 2)****Socialism – 15 hours*** Core ideas and principles - how they relate to human nature, the state, society and economy
* Tensions between revolutionary, social democracy and the Third Way
* Ideas of key thinkers – Marx, Engels, Webb, Luxemburg, Crosland, Giddens

**Optional Idea – 15 hours*** Core ideas, principles and tensions of either Nationalism, Multiculturalism, Feminism, Anarchism or Ecologism.
 | Read relevant textbook pagesKeep notes up to dateRegular essay practiseWeekly homework deadlinesFull Paper One and Two mocks |



**A-Level Overview Year 2: Government and Politics**

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| Term | Teacher: Miss Mather | Key Skills / PSAs / Deadlines |
| 1 | **US (Paper 3)****US Constitution and federalism – 20 hours*** Nature and principles of the US Constitution
* Interpretations and debates
* *Comparisons to UK: Similarities and differences between each constitution, their nature, sources, provisions, separation of powers, checks and balances*

**US presidency – 15 hours*** Formal, constitutional sources of presidential power and their use
* Informal sources of presidential power and their use
* Roles and powers of the presidency
* Interpretation and debates of the US presidency
* *Comparisons to the UK: Comparison of roles, powers and limitations of the President and Prime Minister, extent of accountability to legislature.*
 | Read relevant textbook pagesKeep notes up to dateRegular essay practiseWeekly homework deadlines |
| 2 | **US (Paper 3)****Electoral systems – 15 hours*** Presidential elections and their significance
* Campaign finance
* Debates surrounding elections including Electoral College and incumbency

**Political parties – 10 hours*** Key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties
* Changing significance of the parties
* Current conflicts and influences within the parties
* Groups of supporters for each party
* Debates surrounding party unity, party policy and voting groups

**Pressure Groups – 10 hours*** Significance, resources, and tactics
* Debates on impact on interest groups on democracy

*Comparisons to the UK: nature of party system, degree of unity within parties, policies, campaign finance, methods and influence of pressure groups.* | Read relevant textbook pagesKeep notes up to dateRegular essay practiseWeekly homework deadlinesPaper 3 – Mid-Unit Mock |
| 3 | **US (Paper 3)****US Supreme Court – 20 hours*** Nature and role of Supreme Court
* Appointment process for the Supreme Court
* Public policy role
* Protection of rights and civil liberties

**Civil rights – 5 hours*** Race and rights in contemporary US politics

*Comparisons to the UK: the basis for their power, impact on government and policy, relative independence of each Court, effectiveness of rights protection, impact and effectiveness of interest groups in protecting rights.* | Read relevant textbook pagesKeep notes up to dateRegular essay practiseWeekly homework deadlines |
| 4 | **US (Paper 3)****US Congress – 15 hours*** Structure and functions of Congress
* Interpretations and debates around Congress
* *Comparisons to the UK: membership of each House, powers, relationship between the two houses of each system*

**Federalism – 5 hours*** Main characteristics of federalism
* Debates surrounding changes to federalism in the US.
* *Comparisons to the UK: How far the UK model of devolution parallels the US federal system.*
 | Read relevant textbook pagesKeep notes up to dateRegular essay practiseWeekly homework deadlinesPaper 3 –Full Mock |
| 5 | **Revision** | RevisionRegular essay practiceMock examinations |
| 6 | **Examination** |  |